FCI godowns in Bihar

†1224. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Bihar that have FCI godowns and how many districts do not have such godowns;

(b) whether Government have formulating any scheme for setting up FCI godowns in the districts which do not have any godowns;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) In the State of Bihar, out of a total of 38 Revenue Districts, 29 Revenue Districts have Food Corporation of India (FCI) storage godowns (owned and hired).

(b) to (d) Godowns are hired on the basis of total requirement of storage space and available storage facilities owned by the FCI at the particular place.

3 lakh M.T. capacity has been allocated by the Government of India for construction of godowns under the Seven Years Guarantee Scheme, through the Central Warehousing Corporation/State Warehousing Corporation in Bihar. This covers all the nine Revenue Districts which do not have the FCI storage godowns.

Bacteria in Packaged Water

1225. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that samples obtained from prominent manufacturers of packaged distilled water contain an alarming rate of bacteria;

(b) whether according to press report titled "Study finds faecal bacteria in packaged water" and recent random survey conducted by the concerned authorities on sample bottles from six companies have revealed to have faecal coliform in their water; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the names of the companies and the action taken by Government so far in the interest of public health?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) For monitoring of operation of Certification Marks licence, inspections are carried out at licensees end. Samples are drawn and tested both from factory and market and analyzed. Occasionally BIS comes across failure of samples in bacteriological requirements. As a control measure, stop marking is imposed in such cases, which amounts to withdrawal of marking rights till corrective action is taken by the licensee and verified by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

(b) and (c) Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of West Bengal, Kolkatta has recently drawn 44 samples of Packaged Drinking Water and tested at the laboratory of Pollution Control Board. 4 samples of the brand name Amust, Prime, Bisleri and Crystalline were found failing in the requirement of coliform. Out of these 4 samples faecal coliform was found in only one sample of Crystalline brand. As a follow up action, BIS (Eastern Regional Office) have tested more than 100 samples but none of the brands stated in the report was found failing in coliform count.

Misuse of ISI marks

1226. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of misuse of ISI marks detected in the year 2002;

(b) how many of them are from Andhra Pradesh;

(c) how many persecutions have been launched; and

(d) in what stages are they at present?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) 34 cases of misuse of BIS Standard Mark (ISI Mark) have been registered in the year 2002-2003.